

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELEM 00169 281930Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 L-03
COME-00 DLOS-09 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
INRE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 DODE-00 /059 W
-----073038 281935Z /11

O 281800Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL BELEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0767
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY
NAT MARINE FISHERIES SERV ST PETERSBURGH FLA PRIORITY

UNCLAS BELEM 0169

PASS COMMERCE FOR NOAA., MEXICO FOR RFA

EO 11652:NA
TAGS: EFIS, CPRS, US, BR
SUBJ: BOAT SEIZURE STATUS REPORT

REF: BELEM 167 AND PREVIOUS

1. THREE MOST RECENTLY SEIZED US SHRIMPERS ARRIVED IN BELEM JUNE 27. PRINCIPAL OFFICER VISITED TWO OF THEM, ANITA KAY AND CAYENNE LAURA, THIS A.M. (THIRD VESSEL, SEVEN SEAS, WAS BEING MOVED FROM ONE DOCKING FACILITY TO ANOTHER AT THE TIME.) CATCH HAD ALREADY BEEN REMOVED FROM ANITA KAY AND CAYENNE LAURA, AND CONFISCATION OF ON-DECK FISHING EQUIPMENT WAS UNDERWAY. NAVY SOURCE HAD TOLD CONSULATE YESTERDAY THAT, TO AVOID POSSIBLE SPOILAGE, SHRIMP AND FISHING GEAR WILL HENCEFORTH BE REMOVED PRIOR TO ASSESSMENT AND PAYMENT OF FINE, THUS REVERSING PREVIOUS SEQUENCE.

2. MASTERS OF TWO BOATS VISITED INSISTED TO PRINCIPAL OFFICER THAT THEY WERE IN FRENCH GUIANESE WATERS WHEN SEIZED, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT KNOW COORDINATES OF THEIR POSITION. THEY ALSO MAINTAINED, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN
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FISHING IN BRAZILIAN WATERS PRIOR TO CAPTURE.

3. MASTERS AND CREW OF THREE BOATS ARE ALL BRAZILIANS. THEY APPARENTLY HAVE NEITHER PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION NOR BOATS' PAPERS WITH THEM. BASED ON PRIOR EXPERIENCE, THESE FACTORS WILL COMPLICATE RELEASE PROCEDURE.

4. FIVE US VESSELS SEIZED JUNE 9 HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY CLEARED

FOR DEPARTURE BY CAPTAIN OF PORTS. THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART AT 0400 JUNE 29. TWO BRAZILIAN CREW MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN ON BOARD ONE OF FIVE BOATS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE. SINCE THEY LACK BOTH PERSONAL AND SEAMENS' DOCUMENTATION.

5. SEIZURE AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS HAVE ATTRACTED HEAVY LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE IN PAST TWO DAYS. MOST OF ACCOUNTS ORIGINATE FROM BRASILIA AND CENTER AROUND GOB PRONOUNCEMENTS THERE. BELEM DAILY O ESTADO DO PARA, HOWEVER, FEATURED JUNE 28 INTERVIEW WITH CAPTAIN OF ONE OF EARLIER FIVE BOATS SEIZED WHO ALLEGEDLY ASSERTED THAT US VESSELS WOULD CONTINUE TO FISH IN BRAZILIAN WATERS SINCE THESE ARE BEST SOURCE OF SHRIMP.
BECELIA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, PROGRESS REPORTS, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELEM00169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-1107
Format: TEL
From: BELEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780614/aaaaalgj.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f95be57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BELEM 167
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2185022
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOAT SEIZURE STATUS REPORT
TAGS: EFIS, CPRS, US, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f95be57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014